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Message Text

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EUR/ NE - JBECELIA
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EUR - JDRENDAHL
---------- 109499
R 182129 Z APR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E. O. 11652; ADS, DECLAS 4/20/73
TAGS: PFOR, MT
SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

1. TEXT OF SECTION ON MALTA IN SECRETARY' S 1972 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE APRIL 19 FOLLOWS:

MALTA
QTE EIGHT MONTHS OF HARD BARGAINING BETWEEN MALTA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ENDED ON MARCH 16, 1972, WITH THE SIGNING OF A SEVEN- YEAR BASE AGREEMENT. DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS THE UNITED STATES PLAYED A ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT CONSISTENT WITH OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

THE AGREEMENT PERMITS CONTINUED BRITISH MILITARY PRESENCE ON MALTA AND THE USE OF FACILITIES THERE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ITS OWN AND NATO' S DEFENSE. IT ALSO EXCLUDES FROM MALTA ANY WARSAW PACT FORCES, AN IMPORTANT OBJEETIVE AT A TIME OF SOVIET EXPANSION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE UNITED STATES AND SEVERAL NATO ALLIES ARE HELPING THE UNITED KINGDOM MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT.
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OTHER U. S. INTERESTS IN MALTA ARE SUBORDINATE TO THE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE. TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS MINIMAL. RELATIONS ARE CORDIAL BUT LIMITED BY THE ABSENCE OF PERMANENT MALTESE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON. END QTE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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